

PRESS RELEASE

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Damien D. Wagner, 27, Portage, Wisconsin, pleaded guilty yesterday in U.S. District Court in Madison to unlawfully manufacturing a destructive device - a pipe bomb - in Portage, Wisconsin, during September 2006.

Portage police contacted the Dane County Bomb Squad and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives after recovering a large carbon dioxide canister filled with black powder and a fuse, as a result of a tip from a citizen who was aware of Wagner's manufacture and detonation of earlier devices. No significant damage or harm to any person had been caused by the devices previously detonated.

U.S. District Judge John C. Shabaz scheduled sentencing for July 9, 2007, at 1:15 p.m. Wagner faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison.

The charges against Damien D. Wagner were the result of an investigation conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Dane County Bomb Squad, and the Portage Police Department. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert A. Anderson.

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